



The Pipeline

NOTE: Please send submissions for the May 30 Pipeline to LisaA.Wallace@mail.state.ky.us.

May 23, 2003
Volume 2003, Issue 19

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Staff celebrate at QCC appreciation event

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

The lousy weather stayed away just long enough for Quality Central staff to celebrate at the employee appreciation event last Thursday.



Staff listen as GOT's Larry Doyle and Child Support's Dianne Darnell call out bingo numbers. Prizes included garden accessories and pots for household plants.

About 130 staff attended the event, which was sponsored by Quality Central Connections (QCC) and held at Frankfort's Lakeview Park pavilion.

QCC provided soft drinks, and Secretary Viola Miller provided dessert -- three sheet cakes spelling out the message, "Thank you for all you do."

Staff provided their own lunches for the picnic, and several offices planned special menus.



Sec. Viola Miller expressed her appreciation to Quality Central staff in a uniquely "sweet" way.

Family Support supervisors and managers provided a Subway buffet for division staff. Mavis McCowan bought pizza for her coworkers in the Equal Employment Opportunity office. Department for Disability Determination Services' Pat Haydon also sprung for pizza for staff in her MER payment section.

Staff from Child Support's Accounting Branch used their miscellaneous fund to buy Pizza Hut personal pan pizzas for their employees. Pat Gaines said all branch staff donate \$2 a month to the fund, which is used for retirements, baby showers and activities like the picnic.

Staff enjoyed several activities, including a putting game and bingo sponsored by Child Support and QCC.

At a bubble gum-blowing contest sponsored by Family Support, staff competed to blow the biggest bubble. KCCVS' Karen Asher took home one top prize, and Child Support's Dianne Darnell and Renea Watson each won two first-place prizes -- \$5 gift certificates to Penn Station.



Brenda Jones of Protection and Permanency sings "My Heart Will Go On" at the employee appreciation picnic last Thursday. Larry Doyle from the Governor's Office for Technology provided karaoke equipment and emceed the day's events.

Governor's Office of Technology's Larry Doyle brought music to the event with his karaoke.

QCC members presented former CFC employee Doyle an Applebee's gift certificate as thanks for his donation of time and effort at several Cabinet events.

All staff are invited to QCC's next meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27, at the First City Complex. Visitors must check in at the security desk there.



EAL Bright Idea of the Week

By Anya Armes Weber, CFC Communications

While most Cabinet staff have completed the Everyone a Leader skill-building sessions, we could all use small reminders of the lessons we studied. The "EAL Bright Idea of the Week" features tips that can help us improve our relationships with coworkers and our service to families.

Seek ongoing feedback from your customers. Make it easy and nonthreatening for clients to give their opinions about your services. Feedback can improve your practices and make work more efficient. We have so many more partners through Comprehensive Family Services, one of them might have a new idea we can try. And sometimes we may even receive unexpected praise. All we have to do is ask for it!



Press to get walk-through of Safe Infants Act procedures

By Mike Jennings, CFC Communications

Newborn children can be safely and legally abandoned in Kentucky, and at several sites around the state,

emergency workers and social service personnel will show the media how the process works.

The first of these demonstrations took place Wed., May 21 at the University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences Building. The second is set for Fri., May 23, at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville.

Similar demonstrations of safe infant abandonment procedures are planned for June in the Northern Kentucky, Paducah, Hazard and Bowling Green areas. Locations and dates of those events will be announced later.

Emergency workers and child protection specialists with the Cabinet for Families and Children will be on hand to explain the steps in the process. Reporters will also receive samples of the materials involved, which include forms, brochures and an ankle bracelet that would be placed on an abandoned child.

The Thomas J. Burch Safe Infants Act, enacted last year, made it legal for parents and others to leave a baby up to 72 hours after birth at any hospital, with emergency medical service (EMS) personnel or with any firefighter or police officer. They will not be identified or prosecuted unless an abandoned infant shows signs of abuse or neglect.

A parent relinquishing a child may anonymously provide information about the infant, including medical history, at any time. Special forms will be offered to the parent at the time he or she relinquishes a baby, and these forms may be filled out immediately or mailed in at a later date.

Police, fire or EMS personnel who take custody of a child abandoned under the law must transport the infant to a hospital for a medical evaluation. Once legally abandoned children are pronounced healthy, they are placed temporarily in foster homes.

Parents who abandon children under the law can change their minds and apply to reclaim their children. If they have not done so within 30 days, the Cabinet for Families and Children can ask a court to terminate their parental rights, which will free the children for adoption.

The Safe Infants Act is intended to provide a safe alternative to parents who might otherwise expose their newborn children to harm. More than half of the states have enacted similar laws.



Inmates help with Safe Infants Act effort

By Natalie Ciresi, CFC Communications

From behind their walls, women at the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women were able to help ensure there's a safe, legal alternative to the kind of infant abandonment that often ends in tragedy.

Fifteen inmates at the state's women's prison recently took part in compiling packets containing information on Kentucky's Safe Infants Act. The informational packets will be distributed to fire and police stations, police cars and ambulances across the Commonwealth.

Enacted last year, the Thomas J. Burch Safe Infants Act (Senate Bill 55) allows the mother of a child, or someone acting on her behalf, to give up the child within three days of the child's birth to any hospital, police or fire station or emergency medical services provider anonymously. The hope is to deter women from taking other drastic measures from unwanted pregnancies.

The Cabinet for Families and Children will place children abandoned under the law with families who agree in advance to adopt them. The Cabinet can initiate termination of parental rights, which frees a child for adoption, 30 days

